

LOUISIANA TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

USDA CONFERENCE ROOM

ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA

SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

RECORD OF AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Donald Gohmert, NRCS State Conservationist, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m., and welcomed the meeting participants. (See attendance list attached.) Each member introduced himself/herself to the committee. Gohmert reviewed the agenda and commented on the highlights of items to be discussed.

Ron Marcantel, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist, passed out copies of the last committee meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as recommended by the committee.

♦ ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

Ron Marcantel, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, reported on the EQIP FY-06 Program. In Louisiana 2,241 applications were ranked. The state allocation for EQIP was \$14,670,304. Ground and surface water allocation was \$371,991. Total state EQIP allocation was \$14,648,764 funding 1009 contracts.

An EQIP subcommittee meeting was held on August 22; Ron reviewed the minutes with the committee.

Tim Landreneau, NRCS Soil Conservationist, discussed the EQIP ranking tool for FY-07. All the amendments to the ranking tool recommended in the subcommittee meeting were incorporated into the ranking tool for the committee meeting.

TAC recommendation:

Accepted fully
☒ The consensus of the full TAC recommends to the State Conservationist to change the EQIP Ranking Tool, State/Local Issues, #1 - Are the offered acres within the drainage area of a stream segment or waterbody that is designated by the State Water Quality Management Plan (305(b) report) as "Not Fully Supporting" its designated use delete "due to agriculture" and the EQIP contract will include practices targeted at improving the water quality of runoff from the offered acres? Yes = 20 points.

Accepted fully
☒ The consensus of the full TAC recommends to the State Conservationist to change the EQIP Ranking Tool, State/Local Issues, #8 - Does the EQIP contract treatment include the establishment of one or more of the following rare or declining habitats: Longleaf Pine and/or "native" herbaceous vegetation? Yes = 20 points change to 30 points.

TAC recommendation:

The consensus of the full TAC recommends to the State Conservationist to accept the recommendations of the EQIP Subcommittee to amend the ranking score to reflect cost efficiency 25%; state and local concerns 40%; and national priorities 35%.

Ron Marcantel discussed the eligible practice changes to the EQIP Handbook.

TAC recommendation:

The consensus of the full TAC recommends to the State Conservationist to accept the recommendations of the EQIP Subcommittee with corrections to the EQIP Ranking Tool, and the changes for the program for FY-07.

♦ WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP)

Ron Marcantel reported on the WHIP FY-06 Program. In Louisiana, the allocation was \$350,182. One hundred twenty-four applications were received with a total 48 contracts having been funded for a total of \$342,786.

A WHIP subcommittee meeting was held on August 22; Ron reviewed the minutes with the committee.

Tim Landreneau discussed the WHIP ranking tools for FY-07.

TAC recommendation:

- ☐ The consensus of the full TAC recommends to the State Conservationist to change the WHIP Ranking Tool, State/Local Issues, Are the offered acres within the drainage area of a stream segment or waterbody that is designated by the State Water Quality Management Plan (305(b) report) as "Not Fully Supporting" its designated use ~~delete~~ "due to agriculture" and will the cost-share treatment improve the water quality of runoff from the offered acres?

TAC recommendation:

The consensus of the full TAC recommends to the State Conservationist to accept the recommendations of the WHIP Subcommittee with corrections to the WHIP Ranking Tool, and the changes for the program for FY-07.

♦ **WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)**

Ron Marcantel reported on the WRP FY-06 Program. In Louisiana, 605 offers have been received. Of that 569 easements have been recorded and closed for a total of 211,699 acres. The total acres restored are 176,786.

A WRP subcommittee meeting was held on August 22; Ron reviewed the minutes with the committee.

♦ **GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (GRP)**

Ron Marcantel reported on the GRP FY-06 Program. A GRP subcommittee meeting was held on August 22; Ron reviewed the minutes with the committee.

♦ **CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM (CSP)**

Ron Marcantel reported on the CSP FY-06 Program. In Louisiana, 11 applications for the Tensas Watershed were funded for 5 contracts for \$107,485 with a total of 7045 acres.

♦ **STATE-WIDE AVERAGE COST LIST**

Bill Waits, NRCS Economist, reported on the FY 2007 State-Wide Average Cost List. This year the cost list was developed using a stand alone access database and collected actual cost receipts from the parishes around the state.

In the past, cost-share was determined by percent of the cost actually paid not to exceed percent of the state-wide average cost.

♦ **CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)**

Marcantel discussed the CREP proposal on planting native grasses. Southwest Louisiana prairies are targeted for enrolling 28,000 acres in CREP. The Nature Conservancy is partnering with \$2,000,000, Ducks Unlimited will contribute \$225,000, The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, The Office of Soil and Water Conservation will contribute \$1,300,000. USDA funds will be added for a total project cost of \$35,507,000.

Next Meeting Date – No meeting date was set. Members will be notified when the date is scheduled.

12: 45 p.m. – Meeting Adjourned



Chairman

Louisiana State Technical Advisory Committee



Date

LOUISIANA STATE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

USDA CONFERENCE ROOM

ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA

SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

LIST OF ATTENDEES

Donald Gohmert, USDA-NRCS
Ron Marcantel, USDA-NRCS
Tim Landreneau, USDA-NRCS
Johanna Pate, USDA-NRCS
Bill Waits, USDA-NRCS
Syeda Mariya Qadri, LDEQ
Jan Boydstun, LDEQ
Bill Branch, LSU AgCenter
John Westra, LSU AgCenter
Steve Minvielle, LCFA
Andy Dolan, USFWS
Ronnie Ulmer, The Nature Conservancy
Orlando Phelps, USDA-SU
Dawn Mellion Patin, SU AgCenter
Fred Moore, CE-EPA
Van Kozak, USEPA
Mike Olinde, LDWF